

## Planting of reeds for the management of water quality in wildlife scrapes

Caring For Life

June 2016

Caring For Life is a registered Christian charity that has been housing and supporting vulnerable people in the Leeds area for 29 years. In addition to housing projects, the charity also runs a range of therapeutic daytime activities based on a working farm, which incorporates a nature conservation project.



The Conservation Project is managed and maintained by the vulnerable adults supported by Caring For Life and is widely visited and enjoyed by members of the public.

Since the Conservation area was opened in 2000, we have been thrilled to see the range and number of species increase on site. A feature of the area are five wildlife ponds, which are connected by waterways and “scrapes”, small pools each attracting specific species.

We are very grateful to The Naturesave Trust for providing funding to plant up the scrapes and connecting waterway with reeds (*Carex nigra*) and water mint (*mentha aquatic*) following some restoration work, which was carried out earlier in the year. These plants will help to keep the water clean and ensure good quality water flows on into the scrapes and then the wildlife ponds.



The beneficial impact on the wildlife of maintaining the quality of the water in this way, will enable the project to continue to engage all people with nature, and in particular those with a disability or who have previously not had the opportunity to enjoy the countryside because of a social disadvantage.